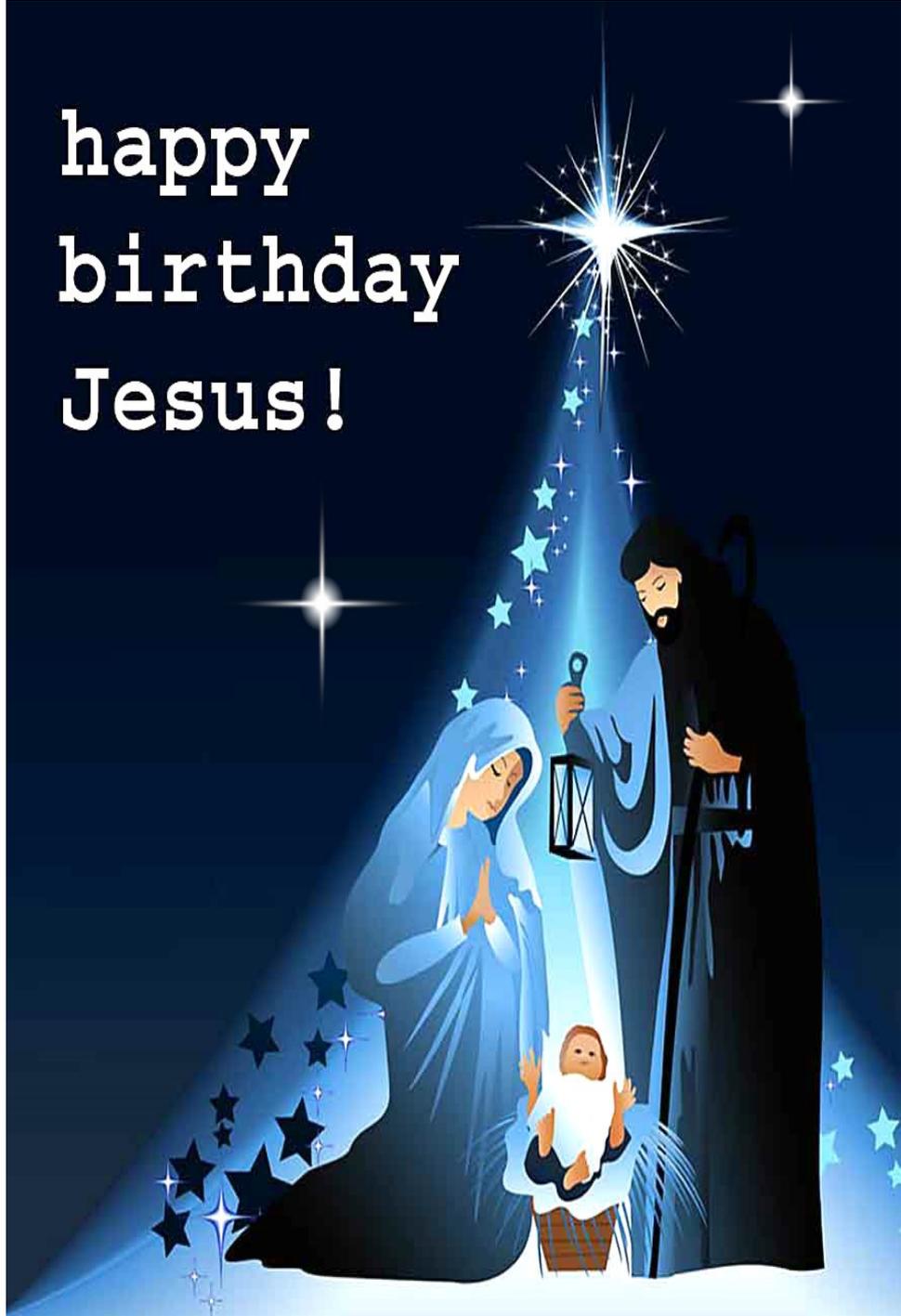


happy
birthday
Jesus!



December Happenings at Grace UMC

Serving You at Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor - Alan Atchison
Secretary - Jane Hubler
Choir Director - Diana Paul
Organist - Charlotte Gingrich-Mull
New Grace Praise Band - Ken Rudisill
Custodian - Pat Guarneri
Building Maintenance - James Carvell
Nursery Coordinator - Nicole Hooper
Noah's Crew Preschool - Lisa VanOlden
and Brenda Fultz
Elementary Lifesavers - Tracy Barcavage
Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministries - Alicia Spicher

Church Office

982 Medical Rd. Millersburg PA 17061
(717) 692 - 2838

Email - gracembgoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Alan Atchison

Parsonage (717) 692 - 2896

Cell (570) 847 - 2939

pastoratchison@gmail.com

www.gracemillersburg.org



Christmas Day Breakfast

December 25, 7:30am-9am

Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage,
and Breakfast dessert

Plus...Coffee, Milk, and Juice !



Come and join us for a hot breakfast and some great fellowship on this wonderful day.



FROM THE
PASTOR'S PEN



“ ...It’s that time of year... when the world falls in love....
... Every song you hear, seems to say....
... Merry Christmas!
... May your New Year’s dreams come true....”

When Frank Sinatra recorded that wonderful song in 1968, nearly 50 years ago, Christmas was celebrated very differently. Most gifts were either homemade, simple, or in-expensive (less than \$20). They were presented to those that we cared about as a reminder of all that was good in the world, and in our relationships. My, how times have changed....

According to Forbes Magazine, Christmas Sales last year reached a staggering 1 TRILLION Dollars! That’s more than twice the amount we spent in 2011 for Christmas, and it is estimated that 62%, or 620 Billion dollars, was financed through credit card debt.

Why do so many people go into debt, or spend outrageous amounts of money at this time of the year?

Many people say that giving makes them feel good. Research has proven that to be at least somewhat true. Studies have shown that it’s not the actual act of giving itself, but the anticipation of how the person



receiving the gift will react when they open the gift that releases endorphins into the blood stream, thereby helping us to “feel good” about our giving.

So, it's really about the dreaming, the expectations, and the anticipation of the gift that gets us excited. And that excitement is probably the most wonderful part of the season of Advent.

I pray that as you make your preparations for the celebration of the coming of the Christ-child into our lives once again, that you are filled with anticipation for all that God will accomplish - both through you, and through Grace Church.



I encourage you to take some time to consider the ways in which you might make an eternal difference in someone's life this Christmas. Rather than spending money on gifts for people that don't need them, or on things that will be soon forgotten, used up, or discarded, find a family close by who is struggling to make ends meet, and send them an envelope filled with cash - not \$20, or \$40, or even \$60 - but an extravagant gift of money. Take time to write out some Care Cards each week to your fellow worshippers at Grace Church, and deposit them in the envelopes that will be in the overflow area throughout December and January. Look for ways to be a blessing to others this Christmas, and be blessed in the process. The Gospel of Matthew records Jesus saying to those who followed him, “ **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**”



But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". *Matthew 6:19-21 NIV*

Take a moment and ask God how He can use YOU this Christmas season, and experience His blessings in a mighty way.

Your Encouraging Pastor,
Alan



This Year's Christmas Cantata
will be presented on

Sunday, Dec 17th

at the 10:30am Worship Service
and again at 4:00pm in the afternoon

Holy Communion will be celebrated during
the morning worship services on **Sunday, Dec. 3rd,**
and **Sunday, Jan. 7th.**



We're Making Christmas Cookies! We are in need of folks to help make cookies for our church shut-ins, as well as for the Christmas dinner on Sunday, Dec .10th. We will begin baking on

Friday, Dec 8 at 7:30 am and mix and bake until 3pm. We are also gladly accepting donations of ingredients such as choc. chips, nuts, raisins, peanut butter, etc. If anyone has a favorite recipe they would like to share, or if you would like to bring an already mixed-up and ready-to-bake batter, we would be glad to use it. Any questions, call Tina Fetter at (717) 395-0498. Thank You!

The Food for Thought small group will have their Christmas potluck at Diane Nestler's home on **Thursday, Dec. 7th, at 6:30 p.m.**



Christmas Eve Service Times December 24th

10:30AM Children's Christmas Pageant

10:00PM Special Music and Candlelighting



Shut-in Cookie Delivery - We are seeking volunteers to deliver a box a Christmas Cookies to our shut-ins and homebound folks before Christmas. If you are able to help, please see the sign-up sheet on the table outside the church office.

Nursery / Toddler Room Caregiver Schedule

8:30 am Service

Dec. 3 Nicole Hooper
Dec. 10 **NO early Service**
Dec. 17 Nicole Hooper
Dec. 24 **NO early service**
Dec. 31 **Help Needed**

10:30 am Service

Shannon Vallier/Nicole
Kelsey DeWees/Nicole
Help Needed / Nicole
Help Needed / Nicole
Help Needed

Please call Nicole Hooper at 717-692-2995 if you can help with filling any of the open help-needed spots.



Dear Grace Church family and friends,

I cannot begin to thank you all for the cards, flowers, food, and books, but most of all the prayers on behalf of me and my family through these last several weeks. It seems like forever since I was last able to worship with you, but God is good. We pray that you have a very blessed Christmas!

God bless you all,
Eileen Orr and Family

Dear Church family,

Words cannot express my gratitude for all the prayers, cards, calls, flowers, and food that we have received over the past few months. I so appreciate your encouragement and love, and I look forward to being back among you soon. We are so blessed to have been called to serve among the people at Grace Church.

Cathy Atchison

Happy Birthday



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Dec. 1 Douglas Goudy
John Mallon

Dec. 2 Daniel Troutman

Dec. 3 Angela Hosterman

Dec. 4 Eric Fite
Rick Ibberson
Jeanette Snell
Breslynn Deitrich

Dec. 5 Robert Butler III

Dec. 6 Maxwell Osman
Laura Dreibelbis

Dec. 7 Daniel Shoop
Cathy Atchison
Katherine McAlanis

Dec. 8 Betty McCahill

Dec. 9 Jan Lebo
Glenda Parish

Dec. 10 Tyler Erdman

Dec. 11 David Bellis
Wesley Fulkroad
Debra Savidge

Dec. 13 Susan Turnbaugh

Dec. 15 Jarred Shoop
Ethan Strauser

Dec. 16 Delaney Bellis
Dylin Bellis

Dec. 17 Alexander Vallier
Janel Bolig

Dec. 18 Keith Danner

Dec. 19 Linda Douty
Holly Kerwin

Dec. 20 Michael Davis
Chris Miller

Dec. 21 Carter Dreibelbis

Dec. 22 Marika Bordner
Halen Leshko
Rhonda Prouse

Dec. 23 Pamela Mauser

Dec. 24 Bradley Kessler

Dec. 25 Russell Hubler

Dec. 26 George McAlanis

Dec. 27 Zachary Savidge

Dec. 28 Charlotte Gingrich

Dec. 30 Matthew Bellis
Katelyn Leaman

Tori Prouse

Stephenie Shoop

Dec. 31 Caleb Shade

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to
the GRACE 80-Plus Club**

Joyce Cooper 12/05

Blanche Nice 12/13

Charlie Lebo 12/21

Jan Zuver 12/25



Anniversaries

Dec 12 ~ Ron and Wanda Brooks

Dec 21 ~ John and Alicia Spicher

Dec 24 ~ Norm and Marie Messersmith

Dec 27 ~ Doug and Deb Goudy

Dec 31 ~ Jim and Arlene Wilbert

New Faces Serving You at Grace Church

Custodian ~ Please say hello to ***Pat Guarneri***. She lives in Killinger with her five cats. She was born in Brooklyn, New York and is the product of Catholic Nuns who taught her well. At 26, she moved to Central PA to escape the big city. For 40 years she worked as a dental hygienist. Now that she is retired she is happy to be cleaning our beautiful church instead of teeth.



Building Maintenance ~ Please say hello to James Carvell. He lives in Halifax with his wife Danelle and his daughter Delaina. He is retired from the Navy Depot after putting in 30+ years, and likes to hunt and be outdoors. James says it is his pleasure to be working at Grace UMC and is happy to serve you in all of your needs.



December Youth Events & Happenings

December 1-2, 2017 5:00pm – 8:00am – Jr/Sr High Youth Lock-in.

December 6, 2017, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

December 13, 2017, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

December 20, 2017, 6:00-8:00pm - Combined JR/SR high youth Christmas Party. This will include a White Elephant Game, I am asking each youth to please bring an age/ church appropriate \$3.00 gift along. Lesson, cookies and fellowship.

December 27, 2017, 6:00-8:00pm - Combined JR/SR high youth group. Lesson, games and fellowship. This will be a “night of games”.



Tournament

**Friday nights in February from 6-8pm
in the Family Life Center**

For All Youth, ages 11-18

Spread the Word!

We're working on reaching our community for Jesus.

A donation of \$2.00 per person each night.

Proceeds benefit youth mission trips and service projects.

Also offering adult-led classes for parents while their youth participate. Childcare will be available.

Contact Alicia Spicher for more information
717-648-9306

2017 Operation Christmas Child Report

If you have ever watched an OCC video with the children opening their shoeboxes, you will remember that they assemble all the children in one room and have a 3-2-1 countdown to open their shoeboxes. Picture our sanctuary crammed with 394 kids opening their shoeboxes. Can you imagine the screams of pure joy and the smiles that your shoeboxes would bring? This year, Grace Church packed a total of 394 shoeboxes. That means nearly 400 children were introduced to Jesus Christ. OCC estimates that at least 7 other family members and friends read the pamphlet explaining who Jesus is that is put in every shoebox. What a missionary outreach. Your efforts could touch 2,800 or more people. As a drop-off location, an additional 1,300 shoeboxes came from other churches - making this year's total 1,694 boxes. Many, many thanks to all that packed boxes, helped at the Drop-off Center, or supported OCC financially. A special thanks to our youth who packed over 300 of our shoeboxes, and to the Missions Committee for helping with a financial contribution.

Before we bask in glory, however, we must look toward next year, remembering that there are many children who did not receive a shoebox. In some locations, children are turned away because there are not enough shoeboxes. So, now is the time to begin considering how we can financially support this project in 2018. Five hundred or more shoeboxes is **not** beyond our reach. A small congregation of 30 people in Plumville, Texas prepares 5,000 shoeboxes a year... Kind of humbling - isn't it ?



MISSION NEWS

UNITED METHODIST CHILDRENS HOME

Kids end up at the United Methodist Children's Home for many reasons. Usually they are removed by court-order from unsafe homes or dangerous situations. Many of these young people have been neglected, abandoned, abused, and assaulted. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress or other disorders. Often, they are developmentally disadvantaged for their age.

The dedicated staff at the Children's Home works to help teach them how to live through their pain and find new ways to cope - including understanding and addressing the situations that brought them to the Home. As they recover and heal, they are taught skills that help prepare them to go out into the world.

Accomplishing this unique, youth-centered mission, takes caring, patience, and ongoing financial support. ***The Missions committee has earmarked \$ 350 toward this worthy cause this month.*** Would you consider becoming a contributor to the work that is done there, as well? Please contact John Ramberger for more information. We appreciate your interest, engagement, and continuing generosity.



You are invited to come and set up your unwanted treasures on our tables in the Family Life Center on Thursday, **January 18th**. The Annual Yard Sale will be open to the public on **Friday, Jan. 19th from 8–5 pm, and on Saturday, Jan. 20th from 8 - 3 pm**. All we ask is that you donate 10% of your profits to Grace UMC to help cover expenses. Start gathering up those treasures now !!! For answers to your questions, call

Linda Leshko at 717-364-9009.

Upcoming trips to Mission Central

Feb. 3, 2018 - Youth Group Work Day
May 19, 2018 - Day of Volunteering
Aug 18, 2018 - Day of Volunteering
Oct 27, 2018 - Help with the M.C. 5K Run

Harvest Home Sunday Update

A Great Big Thank You to all who donated food items and monetary gifts, and all the hands that helped with the beautiful display in front of the Altar. What A Glorious Sight !
All of the donated items will be distributed in the December Food Boxes.

BLANKET SUNDAY will be held on January 14th . We will be collecting monetary donations that will be used to purchase warm, woolen blankets that will be distributed through Church World Services to those who are homeless or in need. The cost to sponsor a blanket is only \$10. Please come prepared to give generously.

Missionaries Don and Chrissy Chubb will be with us on Sunday, Jan 14th, and will share about their ongoing work on the mission field.

The next Missions meeting is Thursday, Jan.11, at 6:30 pm.



BE A BLESSING TO SOMEONE
TODAY
- PROVERBS 11:25

**Grace United Methodist Church
982 Medical Road
Millersburg, PA 17061**

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Christmas Eve Services at 10:30 am and 10:00 pm

Sent with a prayer to:

